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June 22, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

I write today concerning Operation Streamline and the impact it has had on my home state of Arizona.

As you know, the intent of Operation Streamline was to reduce border-crossing recidivism by expeditiously prosecuting those entering or reentering illegally under a "zero tolerance" approach. Operation Streamline has largely been credited with helping achieve effective control in the Border Patrol Yuma Sector, which saw a 95 percent decrease in apprehensions after implementing the program. It was because of policies like Operation Streamline that the *Yuma Sun* noted, "the Yuma Sector's border with Mexico has gone from being one of the busiest and most dangerous in the nation to one of the most secure."

Unfortunately, despite its effectiveness, the previous administration sought to water down its deterrent effect by shifting its policy to targeting only first-time illegal border crossers whom had a known criminal history or were otherwise a threat to public safety.

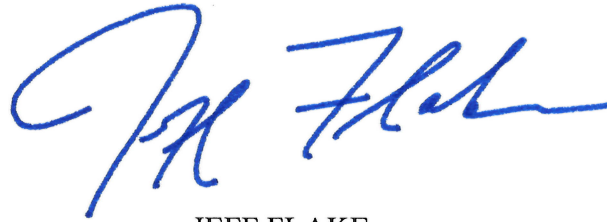
I thank you for your recent visit to Arizona and for the priority you've placed on working to achieve effective border security. At your Senate Judiciary confirmation hearing, when asked of your interest in Operation Streamline, you stated, "It seems to me that we should examine the successes and see if they can't be replicated throughout the border." Therefore, I encourage you to consider the reimplementing of Operation Streamline under its original intent where possible.

In an effort to encourage the success of this program, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Do you believe Operation Streamline and the ability to prosecute first-time illegal border crossers is an effective tool when it comes to deterring and combatting illegal border crossings?
2. Do you plan to continue implementing Operation Streamline along the Southern Border?
3. Do you anticipate returning Operation Streamline to its original intent or are there other ways to improve the program's effectiveness?

I thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response and working with you on this important issue. As always, I ask that this matter be handled in strict accordance with all applicable agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Flake", with a stylized, cursive script.

JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator